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CENTRAL FAX CENTER PATENT
MAY 16 2008

REMARKS

In the Action, restriction is required between:

(I) Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 11, identified in the Action as being directed to an aggregate of nanofibers,

(II) Claims 12 and 14 to 19, identified in the Action as being directed to a fibrous material,

(III) Claim 20, identified in the Action as being directed to a liquid,

(IV) Claims 21, 23, 24, 27 to 34 and 39, identified in the Action as being directed to a polymer alloy fiber/pellet,

(V) Claims 40 and 41, directed to an organic/inorganic hybrid fiber, and

(VI) Claims 46 and 47, identified in the Action as being directed to a porous fiber/material.

Applicants elect the subject matter of group (I), including claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 11, for prosecution in this application. This election is made with traverse.

Applicants traverse the requirement as it applies to groups (I) and (II). The Office identifies the special technical feature of the group (II) claims as a fibrous material wherein an aggregate of nanofibers is encapsulated in a hollow space of a hollow fiber. However, this feature is present only in claims 14 and 15. Claims 12 and 16 to 19 share the same special technical feature as the

group (I) claims and should be included with the group (I) claims.

Furthermore, unity of invention is considered only in relation to the independent claims and not the dependent claims which contain all the features of the independent claim and are directed to the same category of claim (e.g., product, process, apparatus, etc.) as the independent claim. Claims 12 and 16 to 19, which depend directly or indirectly on claim 1, meet these conditions with respect to the group (I) claims.

For these reasons, unity of invention is present between the group (I) claims and claims 12 and 16 to 19. Examination of these claims is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

New claims 52 to 56 have been added to the application and correspond to previously canceled claims 2, 3, 5, 6 and 13, respectively. Unity of invention is present between new claims 52 to 56 and the elected group (I) claims. Examination of new claims 52 to 56 is in order and is respectfully requested.

Form PTO-2038 in the amount of \$250.00 is attached hereto for payment of the fee for five excess claims.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete and proper response to the Office Action dated April 16, 2008. A favorable action on the merits of the elected subject matter is believed to be in order and is respectfully solicited.

In the event any fees are required, please also charge our

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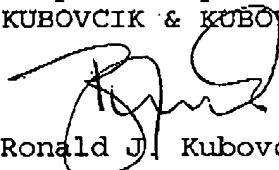
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U.S. Patent Appln. S.N. 10/532,082
RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

PATENT

Deposit Account No. 111833.

Respectfully submitted,
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